



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 4/12/1999

GAIN Report #CH9022

China, People's Republic of

Oilseeds and Products

Oilseeds Planted Area

1999

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Report Highlights:

China's State Statistical Board has recently provided estimates for 1999 oilseeds planted area, excluding soybeans. Though some of the estimates conflict with each other, they all indicate substantial increases in planted area for rapeseed and peanuts, as well as sunflowerseed, sesame and flaxseed. Another article however, indicates that rapeseed crops in Anhui may be affected by disease.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Beijing [CH1], CH

General Summary

According to an article in Cereals and Oil Weekly, the State Statistical Board's (SSB) planting intentions survey indicates that total area sown to oilseeds will reach 13.68 million ha., up 700,000 ha. from last year. This number does not include soybeans, but does include sesame seed, sunflowerseed and flaxseed, as well as rapeseed and peanuts. Rapeseed and peanut planted area are projected to reach record levels.

According to the Cereals and Oil article, SSB estimates rapeseed planted area to have grown by 460,000 ha. In a different article (Chinese-Foreign Cereals, Oil and Feed Information), however, SSB indicates that rapeseed planted area has grown by 11.3 percent, which would result in an increase of 768,000 ha. Post's current estimates indicate an increase of 600,000 ha. The second article lists increases in planted area by province, as noted in Table 1. According to the article in Cereals and Oil Weekly, peanut planted area is forecast to increase by 100,000 ha. In addition, sunflowerseed and sesameseed planted area are forecast to increase by 100,000 ha. and 35,000 ha., respectively, while flaxseed increases by 5,000 ha.

An article in Farmer's Daily has indicated that disease may become a problem for this year's rapeseed crop. According to most sources, rapeseed has not been as severely affected by drought as has winter wheat. The Farmer's Daily article however, indicates that the crop in Anhui may be facing another problem. Warm weather has caused early development of the plants, while a long rainy period has increased humidity. As a result, the province has reported an outbreak of a disease, cited in the paper as *Sclerotinia sclerotium*. An estimated 530,000 ha. of rapeseed has reportedly been affected. Post will adjust production estimates as more information becomes available.

Table 1. Increase in Rapeseed Planted Area

| Province | Estimated increase |
|----------|--------------------|
| Hubei | 23.0% |
| Guizhou | 18.9% |
| Hunan | 8.2% |
| Jiangxi | 7.5% |
| Guangxi | 7.5% |
| Anhui | 6.3% |
| Jiangsu | 5.2% |
| Sichuan | 2.5% |
| Zhejiang | 2.3% |

Source: SSB as cited in Chinese-Foreign Cereals, Oil and Feed Information